

venomous nature. They are also known as zebrafishes, turkeyfishes, lionfishes, etc. They are brightly coloured and occur in shallow waters around coral reefs and rocky areas near the shores of tropical seas.

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A. G. K. MENON
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17. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ICHTHYS COPUS* *INERMIS* (SWAINSON) OFF VIZHINGAM, KERALA

The only available information regarding the occurrence of *Ichthyscopus inermis* (Family Uranoscopidae) is from Day (1878)¹ who had described a male specimen of 12" length from the Kanara Coast. No further report is available regarding the distribution of this species from the east and west coast of India.

On March 13th, 1969, a female specimen of *Ichthyscopus inermis* measuring 390 mm., weighing 1373 gms. was collected from a 'Karamadi or Kamba vala' (Shore-seine) operated in the Vizhingam Bay.

Distinguishing Characters

Body elongate with a single dorsal fin; head covered with bony plates; mouth large with a cleft projecting upwards; small teeth on palate and jaws; eyes dorsal; anterior nostrils round, situated in front of the centre of eye and surrounded with papillae; an elongated angular flap edged with papillae behind the shoulder; lateral line close to the dorsal base; canary-yellow with pure white, round, irregular and oval spots on the body and white spots on the pectoral and dorsal fins; lateral portion below the eye black and soft; ventral and opercular portion light red.

The meristic counts and morphometric measurements are presented in the Table.

Analysis of the stomach contents (30 c.c.) showed that fish formed the main bulk of the food representing 90 per cent of the stomach contents. A single fish (*Pseudorhombus* sp.) of length 120 mm. was found in the stomach along with bottom mud mixed with sand particles which suggests a bottom feeding habit. Day (1878) in his account of this species has reported that the fish has a peculiar habit of bury-

¹ DAY, F. (1878) : Fishes of India.

ing itself in the mud with only cleft of mouth and eyes projecting while a constant current is kept through its gills. If lifted out of the

TABLE

Meristic counts B VIII D3 16, A. 16; V. 1/5; C 11-12; P. 18

Morphometric measurements (mm.)

Total length : 390	Caudal spread : 90
Standard length : 310	Length of angular flap : 65
Head length : 120	Maximum body height : 120
Snout to Vent : 170	Height of caudal peduncle : 35
Vent to Caudal Peduncle : 140	Height at head : 110
Snout to dorsal : 125	Lateral depth : 100
Snout to pectoral : 125	Diameter of eye : 10
Snout to Ventral : 110	Interorbital : 30
Snout to Anal : 185	Interspiracle : 25
Dorsal base : 135	Cleft of mouth : 45
Anal base : 155	Projection of mouth : 15
Length of pectoral : 105	Average length of papillae : 10-12
Length of ventral : 55	Height of dorsal : 40
Length of caudal : 80	

water it squirted fluid from its mouth for some distance. While in the mud it resembled a frog. It made a curious noise, half snapping and half croaking when removed from the water.

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18. TWO NEW RECORDS OF BRYOZOANS FROM INDIAN WATERS

(With three text-figures)

Studies on the fouling bryozoans of Bombay harbour and its vicinity have brought to light the existence of a good number of species. In a recent collection of fouling bryozoans from the intertidal region at Cuffe Parade (Bombay), two species hitherto unknown from Indian waters, have been encountered. These specimens were found attached on stones and shells obtained from enclaves of shallow waters, found trapped during low tide, all along the area which is exposed to atmospheric air, at least for two hours, twice in a day,